(d) if so, what steps are being contemplated by Government to meet the shortage being experienced by the rubber industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) It is a fact that there is a shortage of 'hard grade' Carbon Black in the country mainly used in the manufacture of Bus and Truck tyres. The main reason for the shrotage is due to the increased demand for this product, in view of the increased production in Bus and Truck tyres targeted for the current year. There is no shortage of soft grades of Carbon Black as enough raw material is available for them in the country.

(c) Yes, Sir. Some sectors of Rubber Industry including production of tyres have been affected.

(d) Government have allowed the import of hard grade Carbon Black to manufacturers of Bus and Truck tyres to tide over the shortage. Government are also taking steps to allow the import of high BMCI carbon black feed stock for manufacturers of had grade carbon black so that their production capacity is fully utilised and carbon black of all grades is adequately available. At the same time efforts are being made to maximise production of high BMCI feed stock from indigenous refineries.

Setting up of a National Industrial Technology Data Bank

3270. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to set up a National Industrial Technology Data Bank in the country?

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main objective of the Industrial Technology Information Centre would be to collect, analyse and disseminate information on technical and commercial aspects of industrial technologies from abroad and within the country;

(c) Technical assistance is being obtained to design and establish such a Centre in the D.G.T.D. The Centre is expected to be fully operational within a few years.

Reimbursement in respect of 6 APA

3271. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) when the principle of pro-rata reimbursement of the amount due in respect of 6 APA was given up;

(b) how many companies have been paid the full amount due and how many companies are yet to be paid their due amount; and

(c) whether the matter would be entrusted to a committee of MP's for investigation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) The amount from DPEA is distrbuted depending upon the availability of funds and the requirements in accordance with the provisions of DPCO, 1979.

(c) No, Sir.

Prices of bulk vitamins

3272. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstar-